

## **Fact Sheet: Ensuring Single Mothers Get the Support They Need**

Millions of single mothers struggle to provide for their families on their own.

### **Single mothers in the workforce have low wages and little support.**

- More than three out of four single mothers are in the workforce, and three-quarters of that group works full time. But single mothers' earnings are low, and they don't get the supports they need.
- The typical single mother working full-time, year-round, earns \$25,000, compared to \$38,000 for the typical worker.
- Only 25% of single mothers in the workforce are covered by any type of employer retirement plan, compared with 40% of all workers.
- Forty percent of poor, single, working mothers who paid for child care in 2001 paid at least half of their cash income for it.
- When they filed their tax returns this year, almost a quarter of single-mother families got nothing at all from the tax cuts passed since 2001.

### **Many single mothers and their children live in poverty.**

- Over one-third (36.5%) of single-mother families are poor. The percentage of African-American and Hispanic single-mother families living in poverty is even higher (43.6% and 42.5%, respectively).

### **Federal supports for single mothers have been cut, while the wealthy few enjoy tax cuts.**

- Child care assistance has not been adequately funded. Since 2000, hundreds of thousands of children have lost child care subsidies and the Bush Administration projects that under its budget plan, 200,000 more children could lose assistance between Fiscal Years 2007 and 2009.
- In the last year, cuts to child support enforcement have amounted to 17% of funding. Restoring this funding would avert a loss of about \$1 billion a year in owed child support, most of which is owed to single mothers.
- Since 2002, health care benefits have been reduced and costs have been increased for families that rely on Medicaid, the health insurance plan that covers the poorest families in the country – mostly single mothers and their children. Almost 40% of single mothers are covered by Medicaid.
- The tax cuts enacted in recent years will give millionaires an average tax cut of \$130,000 this year. That's almost five times the family income of the typical single mom.

*August 2008*